

**SURGERY AND THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM**—Physiologic Response to Surgical Trauma; Operative Management of Endocrine Dysfunction. James D. Hardy, M.D., F.A.C.S., Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Tennessee Medical College. Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 153 pages, \$5.00.

With the appreciation of surgical operation as a stimulus initiating a "stress" response on the part of the patient, it is natural that several surgeons have turned their attention to the components of this response and its significance to body economy. The endocrine system has come to occupy an increasingly significant role in surgical care, and it is nice to have available a small, compact, yet enlightening, volume on this subject. This book will serve to consolidate many scattered and fragmentary opinions about the biologic response to injury and knit them together into a useful and clearer picture of this new and rapidly expanding field.

The first few chapters in the book attempt to clarify the mechanism of the response of the organism to surgical operation. Basic physiologic concepts are emphasized, and a tremendous number of articles have been reviewed by the author to lay the background for the integrated picture presented in the first six chapters. The preeminent roles of the adrenals, thyroid, and pituitary in the surgical response to stress are elucidated. The relationships of the endocrine system to burns, early ambulation, infection, and neoplasia are briefly discussed. Half of the book is given over to these chapters which will serve to review for the clinician many of the fundamental advances in endocrinology of the past ten years.

The second half of the book comprises another five chapters in which the surgical problems of each endocrine organ are discussed from the clinical standpoint. Diagnosis and treatment are given in modern terms to disorders of the thyroid, parathyroid, islets of Langerhans, adrenal cortical and medullary tumors, and lesions of the pituitary, thymus, and gonads.

The book contains several excellent diagrams illustrating the interplay of the various hormones in surgical metabolism. Charts are also helpful in fixing the discussions of the text clearly in the mind, and also providing rapid sources of information when reviewing material in the book.

The book is simply and clearly written and illustrated and will be particularly valuable to the clinician who wishes to rapidly review the advances in surgical endocrinology of the past ten years. The entire book can be read with profit in the course of several hours, and it is particularly appropriate as a background for future developments in the field.

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**ALLERGIC PRURITUS**—Its Dermatologic Management. Stephan Epstein, M.D., Editor. Bruce Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minn., 1952. 76 pages, \$2.50.

Pruritus is second only to pain in the distress it produces. In fact, some patients who have suffered from both have maintained that severe pruritus is more unbearable than pain. This is partly because we have much better agents for relieving pain than we have for relieving pruritus. Moreover, physicians have been much better instructed in the treatment of pain than in the management of pruritus. Therefore, this symposium on allergic pruritus, edited by Stephan Epstein, is a welcome one.

The presentation is authoritative, concise (76 pages) and practical. The essayists have done well in attempting to reconcile the often conflicting views of the allergist, the psychosomaticist and the dermatologist. The photographs could be improved.

**A TEXTBOOK OF ORTHOPEDICS**—With a Section on Neurology in Orthopedics. M. Beckett Howorth, M.D., Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, New York Postgraduate Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 1,110 pages, \$16.00.

There has been a real need for a good text book of orthopedic surgery in the American literature for many years. The old classics were excellent in their time, but they have not kept abreast of progress. This new text does fill a need in that sense. Portions of it are excellent. Perhaps in an effort to simplify the subject for students and interns, certain other sections, particularly in the early portion of the book, could be eliminated or improved by revision.

After the first three hundred pages, when the text veers to the description of various and congenital and acquired orthopedic deformities, the picture changes and the book becomes excellent. The section on congenital deformities is beautifully illustrated and there is ample information contained for the student and the practitioner of orthopedic surgery. The discussion of vascular disease is quite complete, including a discussion of differential diagnosis which perhaps has been lacking in older texts many times. The discussion of metabolic and endocrine diseases is excellent. The discussion of tumors is concise, accurate and affords a ready summary of this entire problem for the reader.

The inclusion of a separate section on neuro-anatomy and neurology has certainly been needed in a text of this type. This particular section of the book is one of its best attributes.

Throughout the book there is an excellent choice of illustrations and diagrams, but perhaps the more valuable contribution is the inclusion of recent and classic references to the literature.

In summary, therefore, the book starts slowly but gains momentum as one reads through it. It is the best text of orthopedic surgery available on the American market at the present time and, although its value may be spotty in the early portions of the book, the vast proportion of its content is of such value that it should be recommended highly to anyone interested in this particular subject.

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**THE DIAGNOSIS OF NERVOUS DISEASES**—10th Edition. James Purves-Stewart, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P., Consulting Physician to Westminster Hospital, and C. Wormster-Drought, M.A., M.D. Cantab., F.R.C.P., Physician to the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 962 pages, \$10.00.

The first hundred-odd pages of this standard textbook of neurology are devoted to a clear exposition of neuro-anatomy and physiology. It departs from the usual practice in that there is no detailed treatment of the neurological examination gathered together in one place; rather the elicitation of significant signs is considered in the discussion of the various disease entities. The general style of the book is very pleasing; it can be read with pleasure for a survey of the whole field as well as being well indexed as a reference work.

There is adequate consideration of the special diagnostic techniques, such as electroencephalography and electromyography. The illustrations are well chosen and excellently reproduced. Case histories are used to illustrate the various syndromes. References to the literature appear at the bottom of the page rather than being collected at the end of chapters, a good device. This is probably the most satisfactory of the one-volume texts for both medical student and physician; it will certainly be found in the library of the neurologist.